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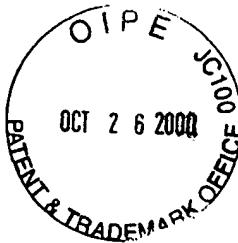
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

PAULISTA et al.

Serial No. 09/297,092

Filed: May 18, 1999



Group Art Unit: 163

Examiner: C. Stroup

Atty. Docket No. 100564-09010

For: COMPOUNDS WITH IMPROVED CARTILAGE-INDUCING AND/OR BONE-INDUCING ACTIVITY

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

October 26, 2000

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 26, 2000, the time for responding having been duly extended three months from July 26, 2000 until October 26, 2000, by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the remarks set forth below.

SECTION 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

The Office Action rejects claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for containing subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way to convey that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In particular, the Office Action asserts that the specification does not indicate what distinguishing features, other than cartilage and bone-inducing ability, are shared by members of the genus of fragments, portions of proteins and heterodimers of the TGF- β superfamily in claims 15 and 16.